

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00182 131406Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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R 131316Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5829

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 182

NODIS

FOR NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SY, US

SUBJ: SUPPORT FOR AID BILL

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF DISCOURAGING SIGNS CONCERNING SYRIAN PORTION OF FY 76 AID BILL WITH AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NEILL JANUARY 12, PROPOSAL ADVANCED THAT LETTERS FROM ME, CLEARED BY DEPARTMENT, TO VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS COULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS. SUGGESTED RECIPIENTS OF LETTERS WERE: (A) SENATE FRC LEADERSHIP (SPARKMAN, CASE, HUMPHREY); (B) SENATE FRC MEMBERS WHO HAVE VISITED SYRIA DURING PAST YEAR (MCGOVERN, PERCY); (C) HOUSE FAC LEADERSHIP (MORGAN, BROOMFIELD); (D) CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ.

2. SENATE LETTERS, AS PROPOSED, WOULD EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF \$90 MILLION USAID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SYRIA IN FY 76 AND ANTICIPATED ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS OF MAJOR CUT, PARTICULARLY IF HEAVILY DISPROPORTIONATE BETWEEN COUNTRIES INVOLVED. CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS WOULD MAKE SAME POINTS BUT ADD COMMENT ON ISSUE SYRIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION THAT WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE NO WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION WHICH WE TREATING WITH QUIET DIPLOMACY. I REALIZE SUCH LETTERS COULD BE MADE

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PUBLIC.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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